

**Developmental Disabilities Council Minutes  
Phoenix Inn Suites, Olympia  
January 20, 2005**

Present

George Walker (Chair), Bill Anderson, Leo Finnegan, Lori Flood, Vickie Foster, Larry Garman, Mike Hatch, Shawn Latham, Alphonso Lee, John Lemus, Sara McQueed, Adrian Patayon, Erin Platts, Michael Raymond, Greg Rodriguez, Laethan Wene, Janet Adams (DDD), Mark Harniss (UAP), Lou Colwell, Mark Stroh (P&A), David Kludt (MHD), Patty McDonald (ADSA), Kelly Boston (DVR)

Absent

Suzanne Gries, Alicia McRae, Diana Zottman, Marijo Olson (CTED), Tabitha Harrison (DOH)

Guests

Sandra Latham

Staff

Ed Holen, Clare Billings, Linda Walling, Eva Rooks, Stephanie Benfield, Cathy Townley, Brian Dahl, Donna Patrick

Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Minutes

**Motion: Council approve the November 2005 minutes as written. Mike R. moved and Laethan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Adjustments to the Agenda

There were none.

Chair's Remarks

Linda reminded everyone to fill out their pink sheets for the March meeting and discussed the new travel form for members to fill out.

George thanked everyone for the hard work and extra time put in for the legislative reception. He reminded everyone that there are a lot of legislative challenges this session.

### Executive Director's Report

#### Celebration of Accomplishments

Clare gave a presentation on the Council's contracts and Projects for 2005. She shared the statewide results that 4,579 people from every county in the state benefited from the Council's investments.

Clare discussed the contracts for advocacy, self-advocacy, media, health care training, work source employment, special education advocacy and ombudsman volunteer training.

Clare then gave specific results in Chelan, Clark, Grays Harbor, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, and Yakima, Counties.

In total, the Council spent \$1,890,867 in federal fiscal year 2005 on projects. Clare reported on the results of the customer satisfaction surveys, totaling over 500 surveys returned. 98% of the respondents reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their participation in Council sponsored activities.

Ed discussed the "Waiting Game" flyers that were handed out at the legislative reception. The flyer brought attention to the 11,000 people and families who are unserved in the state. There will be a "Waiting Game" booklet available February 1<sup>st</sup> that will share some of the stories of the unserved.

Ed showed a video that the Arc of Washington created to show people with disabilities how to make a complaint in DDD. The video will be broadly distributed throughout the state to all DDD regions, advocacy groups etc. The Council would like to see the video on TVW (public television). A video on the fair hearing process will be out in March.

Ed stated that the division is going to reinstate their DD Update newsletter.

He distributed a flyer called "Many Voices, One Vision", which came from the Federal Alliance for Full Participation Summit and is proposed as Washington State's vision for developmental disabilities. Washington State is holding its own Alliance for Full Participation summit in January 2007. The goal of the summit would be to bring momentum to the DD movement in Washington State.

### Council Budget Update

Ed reviewed the January 2006 budget for the Council. He reported that the 2003 federal grant money is fully expended.

The 2004 remaining grant money is fully obligated in contracts that need to be spent by September 20, 2006. He shared that the 2005 budget is on track to spend the operational part of the budget by April 20, 2006 and no changes are needed. The 2006 federal budget was just approved by Congress and will begin in the spring. Ed shared that the 2007 budget will be presented at the July meeting. He also discussed other funding received from DSHS/DDD.

#### Developmental Disabilities Residential Advisory Council

Lori reported that the DD Advisory Council has had three data gathering meetings so far. The Governor did not propose to continue the Advisory Council. A report is being put together for the Governor and the legislature. Lori hopes the Advisory Council will continue to use this down time to hold focus groups around the state.

<h4>Committee Reports</h4>
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#### Public Policy Committee

Lori reported that the committee discussed:

Legislative conference calls (The Committee recommends that the conference calls on Fridays not continue. Council members can call the office any time for an update);  
Employment Policy Task Force; and  
Legislative issues

#### Governance Committee

Sara reported that the committee:

Reviewed policies; and  
Forwarded Policy #113 (Early Intervention in Natural Environments) to the full Council for a vote

#### Membership Committee

Vickie reported that the committee discussed:

Council Development Day in May;  
If anyone has any questions/comments about mentorship please contact Alphonso.

She thanked Adrian for being interested in coordinating social activities.

Agency Reports
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#### Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD/DSHS)

Janet Adams informed the Council that one of the three Central Office Chiefs, Colleen Erskine was retiring and Doug Washburn, formerly County Coordinator for Kitsap County, is taking her place. Janet passed around the latest information on the new Family Support Pilot. She discussed briefly the update and the way the Division is moving forward. Janet let the Council know that implementation of the DDD Assessment has been delayed until March of 2007, as many policy issues need to be finalized before development can begin. The mini-assessments will continue until the full assessment goes live. Janet also brought copies of the new Complaint video and brochures for Council members.

#### Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Lou Colwell reported that the final federal IDEA regulations have not been issued to date. It is anticipated that the regulations may be available in late spring. There is a concern that the current proposed regulations under Title I on the subject of assessment may be in conflict with the IDEA regulations on alternate assessments. Comment period for the Title I regulations runs until late February.

OSPI special education operations has hired an ombudsman. Her name is Kristen Hennessey. She is currently formulating her responsibilities. She can be reached at 360-725-6075.

#### Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS/DSHS)

Patty reported that Bill Moss is the new director of Home and Community Services Division at ADSA. The website address for the New Freedom Waiver on the ADSA internet, is  
[www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/Professional/documents/New%20Freedom%20Waiver.doc](http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/Professional/documents/New%20Freedom%20Waiver.doc)

#### Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Kelly reported that new DVR Director Lynnae Rutledge has been on board three months and is well into evaluating their current performance issues and developing strategies for improvement. Lynnae will be invited to an upcoming Council meeting with time scheduled on the agenda to discuss DVR direction and priorities.

DVR has continued to release individuals from the waiting list each month. Services have been initiated for all individuals in the highest priority category, plus about 2,000 individuals in the second priority category since October 1st. Due to limited funds, DVR closed the second priority category in January, possibly for the remainder of the fiscal year.

DVR is making progress in its effort to redefine the order of selection priority categories. This change has resulted from significant feedback by the disability community over the past 2 years regarding unequal access to services among all disability groups. Formal notice has been filed, and several options have been developed based on the feedback. Those options are being shared and discussed in the broader disability community. After scheduled meetings with a DVR-DDD work group and a DVR-MH work group scheduled in the coming weeks, DVR will decide on its preferred option, develop a proposal and disseminate it for public review.

#### Health & Recovery Services (HRS/DSHS)

Diana reported that the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was implemented on January 1, 2006. The 4,300 slots filled quickly. There are currently about 10,000 on a waiting list.

Medicaid Part D has overwhelmed the Medicaid phone lines. They have had to let folks know that with the exception of some drugs and over the counter medications, all prescription services are through Medicare, not the state Medicaid office.

There is a new federal requirement that people have to show proof of citizenship in order to get services. People will need a passport or a birth certificate, plus one other piece of documentation. Washington is calling other states to see how they are planning to address the requirement.

#### Mental Health Division (MHD/DSHS)

David reported that the division is pleased to announce that Mr. Richard Kellogg has begun work as the new Director for the MHD. Mr. Kellogg comes to Washington from New Hampshire, where he was the State Director of Community Based Care Services. Mr. Kellogg has an extensive history of administrative posts that have included oversight of state services for developmental disabilities.

He stated that the group working on the Allen Lawsuit, Western State Hospital (WSH) DSHS vs Washington Protection and Advocacy System reached an agreement regarding services for individuals with developmental disabilities at WSH. This revised settlement order will be entered with the court in mid-February. The major focus of this order will be to reduce the census on WSH's two specialized units.

David shared that Mental Health services in the state are administered by regional support networks (RSN's) who contract with the state to provide required services within their region. There have historically been 14 RSN's in the state. In response to recent legislation and changes in federal requirements, the state issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to all 14 RSN's. This process was used to identify the RSN's ability to meet certain qualifications. The result of this RFQ was that 8 of the 14 RSN's were approved. There is a second round process that will allow those RSN's who did not qualify to re-submit.

At the same time however, other entities may also make application to administer and provide those services. Services throughout this process will not be interrupted and consumers should notice no difference. If anyone is experiencing difficulties accessing mental health services, David encourages them to give him a call.

Department of Health recently suspended the license of PSH, is a hospital owned and operated by the Pierce County RSN that provides acute psychiatric care to adults in Pierce County. The MHD and Western State Hospital are working closely with Pierce County to assure those patients currently at PSH and future admissions are served appropriately and timely.

#### University Affiliated Program (UAP)

Mark Harness reported that faculty at the University Center are conducting a study that investigates the community participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities. For more information about participating in this study, contact Pat Brown by phone at 206-543-6387.

#### Washington Protection and Advocacy System (WPAS)

Mark shared that there are handouts on the back table. He stated that Senate Bill 6630 on the DD Community Protection Program was printed on goldenrod and the first hearing on the bill would be on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30.

He stated that the Allen lawsuit was settled with DVR.

Mark reported that on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. there would be a forum by the Washington State Human Rights Commission. People are welcome to share their experiences with the court system.

With that the meeting was adjourned.